

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 25, 26, and 39 through 58 are now pending in this application. Claims 1 through 24, and 27 through 38 have been cancelled. Claim 25 has been amended to correct a minor informality. New dependent claims 39 through 58 have been added. Claims 25 and 26 have been allowed.

The Office Action has rejected claims 1 to 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants have cancelled claims 1 to 24, thereby rendering moot the aforementioned § 112, second paragraph rejection as to those claims.

The Office Action has rejected claims 1 to 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yenni et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,997,732). Furthermore, the Office Action has rejected claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yenni et al. in view of Biscardi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,579,441). As set forth above, applicants have cancelled claims 1 to 24. Consequently, the § 103(a) rejections are also rendered moot.

The Office Action sets forth that claims 25 and 26 are allowed, as no prior art of record discloses or renders obvious a process for producing a mineral turpentine oil having a saybolt color better than +20 from a crude oil wherein the crude oil is distilled to produce kerosene/aviation turbine fuel cut (ATF) which is then subjected to Merox treatment to remove mercaptan from the cut. The Action further states that the treated cut is then distilled to obtain MTO, which is then contacted with an adsorbent to improve saybolt color.

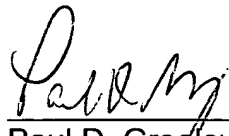
New dependent claims 39 to 58 have been added to depend from allowed claim 25. Applicants submit that all of the subject matter contained in new claims 39 to 58 has previously been considered in old claims 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10 to 24. Moreover, since claims 39 to 58 depend from claim 25, applicants submit that dependent claims 39 to 58 are also patentably distinguishable for at least the same reasons as claim 25. As such, all rejections should be withdrawn since claims 25, 26, and 39 to 58 are clearly in condition for immediate allowance.

Based on the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the present invention are allowable, request that all rejections and objections be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that the claims of this application be given favorable consideration and immediate passage to allowance. More specifically, applicants submit that claims 25, 26, and 39 to 58 are clearly in condition for immediate allowance. Claims 25 and 26 have already been allowed. In the event that further clarification is required prior to allowance, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact applicants' undersigned attorney.

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Dated

Respectfully submitted,



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